

Historic Overview of Contaminated Waste Sites in the Niagara Falls area

Michael Basile, U.S. EPA, Niagara Falls Public Information Center, and Bill Kappel, U.S. Geological Survey, led a field trip for members of the Ground-Water, Engineering, and Federal Facilities Forums to a number of sites of environmental and geological interest in the Niagara Falls area. Michael Basile summarized the history of the contamination, investigation, and cleanup activities of four Superfund sites: the Hooker Chemical/102nd Street Landfill, Hooker Chemical/S-Area Landfill, Hooker Chemical/Hyde Park Landfill, and Love Canal.

During a stop at the S-Area, Don McCleod, Miller Springs Remediation Management, Inc., and Jim Kaczor, Earthtech, Inc., explained the remediation system at the S-Area Landfill, which comprises slurry walls, collection drains, extraction wells, and leachate storage and treatment systems. Alton Anderson, Carole Johnson, and John Williams of the USGS fielded questions on USGS's various borehole geophysical tools. They displayed an EM flowmeter, acoustic televiewer, optical televiewer and tools for running caliper, fluid resistivity, fluid temperature and natural gamma logs. They also demonstrated the use of a heat pulse flowmeter.

Bill Kappel described the strata of Niagara Gorge revealed in roadcuts as the group descended downsection in a walk to the Lewiston Pump Generating Plant along the Niagara River. He provided an overview of the hydrology of the river and the regional power generation system.

The field trip concluded with a tour of Model City Landfill in Model City, New York. Located about 8 miles north of Niagara Falls, it is the only commercial hazardous waste landfill in the state.